

TORRANCE PRESS

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Pros and Cons of Council Districts Should Be Studied

Petition passers will soon be ringing doorbells in Torrance striving to get signatures enough to place the controversial issue of councilmanic districts on the November ballot.

Proponents of the measure would like to see the city divided into eight districts, each of which would elect a councilman to the city's governing body.

Council, then, would be composed of eight members, each representing a district, and a mayor, who would be elected "at-large."

Opposition to the proposal has been developing rapidly, as evidenced by the number of telephone calls received at the offices of the Torrance Press. In last Sunday's edition, as tactfully as possible, editors of the Press attempted to point out some of the pitfalls inherent within the system.

OPPOSITION

To begin with, the greater number of councilmen, themselves, basically oppose the plan.

Mayor Albert Isen, two weeks ago, publicly castigated the plan from the council bench.

In the second place, the eight councilmen would, in theory, each repre-

sent the city as a whole, but each would be dependent upon his own district for re-election. A citizen, appearing at a Tuesday night session, would be faced by eight councilmen . . . and would have only voted for one of them!

In theory each would contain one-eighth of the city's 45,000 registered voters, or slightly more than 5,000 per district. Yet in any municipal election, a 30 percent turnout at the polls is considered high . . . thus any candidate who would scratch up approximately 800 ballots could be assured of election.

There are lots more arguments against the scheme . . . the cities that have it now and would like to get rid of it . . . the reputable civic organizations that oppose districts because of the possibility of corruption in government . . . the ease with which machine politics and the proverbial "ward heeler" can take over.

There is little need to point out the advantages of the system, and no doubt there are some, for the petition passers will take care of that.

We do feel that the residents of Torrance should be aware of the pitfalls as well as the advantages before they affix their signatures to a petition.

Torrance Area Citizens for Mosk Will Organize to Re-Elect Attorney General

Formation of the South Bay Citizens for Attorney General Mosk was announced this week by Co-chairmen John W. Simpson, Torrance attorney, and Mrs. William C. Jennings Manhattan Beach civic leader.

"California needs its number-one lawyer Attorney General Stanley Mosk, more than ever during this decade when our state becomes the most populous in the union," the co-chairmen said in a joint statement. "Attorney General Mosk's innovations in the fields of law and law enforcement have been models for the nation. His consumer frauds, anti-trust and investment frauds units have received nationwide praise. The success of his Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission and other aids to law enforcement is reflected in last year's crime decline in California."

Area chairmen of the South Bay Citizens committee are: attorney Richard G. Harris of Westchester, former city councilman George E. Gordon, Jr. of El Segundo, attorney Raymond Choate of Manhattan Beach, attorney George R. Perkovich, Jr. of Palos Verdes Peninsula and City Councilman Jack Belasco of Hermosa Beach.

Attorney William C. Jennings of Manhattan Beach is the committee's finance chairman.

"It is an honor to have the

support of so many outstanding citizens of the South Bay area," Attorney General Mosk said. "This fast-growing area of Los Angeles County exemplifies the challenges which our state now

Ryan Aircraft Reports \$500,000 Gain in First Half of 1962

Net income of Ryan Aeronautical Company totaled \$1,643,997 for the first half of the 1962 fiscal year, compared to \$1,173,867 for the same period last year, T. Claude Ryan, chairman of the board, told stockholders in an unaudited interim statement released today.

Per share earnings for the six months ended April 30, 1962, were 93 cents on 1,763,900 shares, the average number outstanding during the period. For the first six months of fiscal 1961, earnings were equal to 71 cents per share on 1,650,568 shares.

Net sales for the six months amounted to \$38,651,615, compared with \$45,831,290 for the first half of the 1961 fiscal year.

"While the results for the year to date are very encouraging, your management believes it is still too early to use the sales volume and net income for the first six months as necessarily being representative of what may be realized for the full fiscal year," Ryan told stockholders.

EQUITY

Stockholders' equity on

April 30, 1962, reached a new high of \$31,085,374, an increase of approximately 13 percent over the \$27,607,605 book value reported a year earlier. Book value per share on the 1,771,674 shares outstanding April 30, 1962, was \$17.55, compared to \$16.62 per share on the 1,660,690 shares outstanding at the end of the fiscal 1961 first half.

The stockholders' equity was stated after deducting the cost of 12,300 shares of Ryan treasury stock the firm has acquired since Nov. 1, 1961. "The company's stated policy is to buy shares of its own stock on the open market if and when such action appears to be sound and in the stockholders' interest," Ryan said.

"Approximately 10 million in new business has been placed under contract since our last quarterly letter," Ryan said. This new business included spare parts, augmentation, ground support equipment for Ryan Q-22 Firebee jet target missiles, and Ryan Doppler navigation sets for Army Mohawk observation aircraft.

Select Speakoff Champ

Impromptu Speaking Wins Top Toastmaster Award

Torrance man James Barton had the unprecedented honor of winning both the table topics award and the first place prize in the formal speaking portion of Southbay Toastmaster's Club No. 280's regular Wednesday evening meeting. Dr. W. J. Labit of WALTERIA took home the second prize of the evening.

The meeting, held at the Redondo Beach Elk's Club, was also noteworthy because of the special emphasis laid on the parliamentary procedure portion. Club President James McDonald of Manhattan Beach was subjected to a rigorous test of his knowledge of how to conduct a meeting, and all the attending members, as well as the guests, learned something about how a parliamentary discussion is conducted.

Table topics, a regular

Highway Patrol Cautions Against Flashing Lights

California Highway Patrol Commissioner Bradford M. Crittenden warned vehicle owners against installing devices which cause the stop lights to flash whenever the brakes are applied.

He said that several devices are now being marketed which convert the brake light to a flashing type signal.

"The idea of a flashing brake light may appear to offer safety advantages," the commissioner said. "Actually, flashing brake lights would only add to motorist confusion, destroy the restricted meanings which the law now attempts to reserve for flashing red lamps—and be in violation of the vehicle code."

"Flashing lights—of any color—are illegal on passenger cars, except in two instances. "One is their common usage as turn signals. The second involves their very infrequent usage as emergency warning signals. "The law is quite restrictive regarding the latter," he said. "It specifies that when a vehicle is disabled on the road four or more approved turn signal lamps may be flashed as a warning, at least two toward the front and two toward the rear." The commissioner added that the car must actually be on the roadway if this type warning signal is used.

Boycott Campaign Names Woman To Head Group

Mrs. Mark Speer has been appointed chairman of the Women's Steering Committee for Boyce, according to Dr. Merle Boyce, Republican candidate for the 17th Congressional District.

Assisting Mrs. Speer, who lives in San Pedro, with campaign work in the Gardena-Lomita-Torrance area are Mmes. William Mitchell, Louise Ford and Vernon Walker, Lomita; Mrs. Clyde Miller, Harbor City; Mrs. Gerald Allene, Hawthorne; Mmes. Clarence Hart and Artha Gordon, Gardena.

Torrance women workers include Mrs. Richard Hagler, Mrs. Guy Simmons and Miss Mary Lumkin.

Dr. Boyce, a life-long resident of the district, has organized women's groups in every town and area of the 17th District.

Approve Bonds

Support of the \$200,000 State School Bond issue appearing on the June 5 Primary Election ballot as Proposition 1 was announced this week by the Directors of California Taxpayers' Association.

Passage of this bond issue will allow the state to continue its long-term program in support of school construction in school districts without sufficient resource to meet their own needs, according to S. J. Arnold, the Association's General Manager.

part of the program, consisting of extemporaneous speeches by the club members on various subjects, was especially lively due to a series of salesman-customer techniques that were demonstrated. Everything from pills to penthouses was sold or resisted by the salesmen and customers of the evening.

Further information regarding the Toastmaster meetings may be had by calling FRontier 5-3611.

Californians For Goldwater Plan Education Group

Recommendations of the South Bay Chapter, Californians for Goldwater Information and Education Committee for local offices in the June 5 Primary were approved unanimously last week at a meeting held at the Fish Shanty Restaurant, Committee Chairman Joe Leach announced.

Included in the endorsement of the local chapter were: Richard Dolwig, Attorney General; Alphonso Bell, representative, 28th Congressional District; Charles Chapel, assemblyman, 46th Assembly District. For the 46th AD Republican Central Committee, the following slate was endorsed: Kenneth Gordon, Torrance; Robert Mumcaster, San Pedro; Rex Smith and Gwen Watson, Playa Del Rey; Tom Coffey, Los Angeles; James Rea, Rolling Hills; John Hoffman, Playa Del Rey.

Joseph C. Shell, candidate for Governor had received unanimous endorsement by the club in November. Leach said that this endorsement, along with that of Howard Jarvis, U.S. Senate, and Max Rafferty, State Superintendent of Schools was also



WELCOME HOME — A magnificent trophy was presented recently to Assemblyman Clayton A. Dills, following his return to this area from Sacramento. Trophy was presented by volunteers from his reelection committee. Here Rose Sarukian, chairman of the group, makes the presentation to the Assemblyman.

made by the state-wide Congress of Californians for Goldwater.

Members and guests for Californians for Goldwater heard a talk by Dr. Anthony Butkovich, Marymount professor of European History and Political Science, on "Tito and Soviet Russia." Dr. Butkovich is shortly to

Solid Support Promised For Area Candidate

Assemblyman Clayton A. Dills this week was assured the solid support of all branches of labor in his campaign for re-election.

Among the branches of labor supporting Dills is the powerful California Labor Council on Political Education "COPE" which is the official political vehicle of AFL-CIO Unions in the State, as well as the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Railroad Brotherhood, Teamsters, Longshoremen, Carpenters, Automobile Workers, United Steelworkers, Retail Clerks, and Culinary Workers.

Dills has also received the endorsement of business and professional groups. Among the business groups are: Southern California Grocers Association, Retail Hardware Association, Retail Druggist Association, Automotive Maintenance and Garage Association, California Federated Institute.

All of the Allied Groups, comprised of Dentist, Medical, Opticians, Pharmaceutical, Hospitals, and the public Health League unanimously endorsed Assemblyman Dills for re-election.

\$171,000 Savings Bond Sales Noted in Torrance Area

Torrance Community today is \$171,094.18 closer to its Freedom Bond goal of funding \$1,100,000 cost of a Polaris Missile.

This is the total of the April sales of United States Savings Bonds. Sales for the year to date are \$45,987,276 for Los Angeles County and \$61,757,141 for Southern California. Comparable figures for the same period of last year were \$47,249,461 for the County and \$65,109,376 for Southern California.

Community Chairman George W. Post said: leave for a nation-wide lecture tour. Leach added that the club's name implies no endorsement by Senator Goldwater. The group is organized to promote the ideas set out in "Conscience of a Conservative" and towards this end endorses candidates.



BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN — Members of the Citizens for Boyce include Mrs. Clarence Hart, center, Lester Cross and Mr. Hart, all of Gardena. Dr. Merle Boyce, Republican candidate

for Congress, is shown at left with his mother, Mrs. Elma Boyce, an active member of the Wilmington Women's Division for Boyce.

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